

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. SAHARA

ASSISTING MOROCCO

AMBASSADOR PICKERING REPORTS THAT KING HUSSEIN HAS REQUESTED
AN UPDATE ON HOW MOROCCO IS FARING IN THE SAHARA. HUSSEIN
ALSO WANTS TO KNOW:

--WHETHER THE MOROCCANS NEED FURTHER ASSISTANCE; AND

--THE US ATTITUDE TOWARD DIRECT AND THIRD COUNTRY AID
TO MOROCCO.

IRANIAN MINISTER OF COURT ALAM INFORMED AMBASSADOR HELMS
THAT A MAURITANIAN SPECIAL ENVOY SAW THE SHAH ON JANUARY 23
AND MADE A PLEA FOR ARMS AND MONEY. THE SHAH LISTENED

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POLITELY BUT REPLIED THAT IRAN COULD DO NOTHING.

2. IRAN: SHAH FRETS OVER DIMINISHED EXTERNAL ROLE

THE SHAH, CONCERNED OVER DEVELOPMENTS IN AFRICA, WONDERS WHETHER THE US HAS CONSIDERED THE CONSEQUENCES FOR THAT CONTINENT AND FOR THE INDIAN OCEAN OF A "WEAKENED IRAN." IN HIS VIEW:

--DJIBOUTI WILL FOLLOW ANGOLA AND SOMALIA IN FALLING UNDER SOVIET INFLUENCE ONCE INDEPENDENCE IS ACHIEVED AND WILL BECOME PART OF THE SOVIET ENCIRCLEMENT OF AFRICA;

--IRAN MUST, DUE TO REDUCED OIL LIFTINGS AND THE ESCALATING COSTS OF US ARMS, FOREGO PLANS TO BE A STABILIZING INFLUENCE BEYOND ITS BORDERS.

IN ADDITION, THE SHAH REQUESTED US EVALUATIONS ON:

--WHAT THE SOVIETS ARE UP TO IN ETHIOPIA;

--THE CUBAN PRESENCE IN SOUTH YEMEN, NOW AT 4,000 MEN, WHICH IS OF GROWING CONCERN TO SULTAN QABOOS AND SAUDI ARABIA AS WELL AS IRAN. (SECRET) TEHRAN 706 (EXDIS), 1/25.)

3. ICELAND FISHING FOR US DENIAL ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS

EMBASSY REYKJAVIK REPORTS THAT OUR REFUSAL TO CONFIRM OR DENY THE PRESENCE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN ICELAND HAS NOW BECOME A MAJOR POLITICAL ISSUE, EXACERBATED BY THE ANTI-NATO SENTIMENT STIMULATED BY THE FISHERIES DISPUTE. AMBASSADOR IRVING:

--HAS REFUSED TO DEVIATE FROM THE STANDARD USG REPLY OR TO APPROVE SUGGESTED DENIALS BY GOI OFFICIALS;

--EXPECTS TO BE SUMMONED TO THE MFA THIS WEEK TO HELP WORK OUT A JOINT STATEMENT.

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PRO-AMERICAN MEDIA AND GOI LEADERS APPARENTLY ARE CONVINCED NOTHING LESS THAN AN UNAMBIGUOUS DENIAL BY THE PRIME MINISTER OR FOREIGN MINISTER AND AMBASSADOR IRVING WILL PREVENT ANTI-IDF DEMONSTRATIONS MORE SERIOUS THAN THOSE OF THE PAST FEW WEEKS.

AMBASSADOR'S COMMENT. THINGS HAVE REACHED AN EXAGGERATED STAGE EVEN FOR ICELAND. WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN OUR

POSITION AND LET THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAY WHAT HE LIKES.

(CONFIDENTIAL) REYKJAVIK 116, 1/24.)

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4. BALKAN CONFERENCE: SOVIET FEARS

EMBASSY ATHENS HAS DISCUSSED WITH OFFICIALS OF THE GREEK GOVERNMENT THE IMPLICATIONS AND GOALS OF THE BALKAN CONFERENCE, SCHEDULED TO BEGIN JANUARY 26. WHILE THE CONFERENCE IS TECHNICAL IN NATURE RATHER THAN POLITICAL, MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL TZOUNIS SAID THE SOVIETS ARE UPSET, PERHAPS BELIEVING THAT THE US IS BEHIND IT. TZOUNIS ALSO:

--SPECULATED THAT A DOCUMENT AND PERHAPS EVEN AN INTER-BALKAN BODY MAY EMERGE FROM THE CONFERENCE;

--COMMENTED THAT GREECE, "AN ISLAND IN A SEA OF SLAVS," WANTED TO SECURE ITS BORDERS;

--THEORIZED THAT TURKISH PARTICIPATION COULD HELP IMPROVE THE CLIMATE WITH THAT COUNTRY; AND

--NOTED THAT YUGOSLAV ENTHUSIASM MAY REFLECT A DESIRE TO SECURE THEIR "BACKS" AGAINST POST-TITO POSSIBILITIES. (CONFIDENTIAL) ATHENS 722, 1/24.)

5. KOREA FOREGOES NUCLEAR REPROCESSING

KOREAN VICE FOREIGN MINISTER LHO SHIN YONG TOLD CHARGE ERICSON JANUARY 26 HE HAD OFFICIALLY INFORMED THE FRENCH THAT KOREA HAS DECIDED TO CANCEL THE REPROCESSING ASPECT OF THE FRENCH NUCLEAR FACILITY PURCHASE. LHO ELABORATED:

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--THE ROKG WILL PROCEED WITH OTHER FACETS OF THE PURCHASE.

--SINCE HIS GOVERNMENT HAS "SUCCUMBED TO AMERICAN PRESSURE AND ACCEDED 100 PER CENT," IT IS NOW INCUMBENT ON THE USG TO ASSIST KOREA IN THE REPROCESSING FIELD AND IN OTHER ASPECTS OF PEACEFUL NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT.

EMBASSY COMMENT: LHO'S CONGRATULATIONS ON THE SKILL WITH WHICH THE US CONDUCTED ITS DISCUSSIONS WITH THE ROKG WAS TINGED WITH SOME BITTERNESS. THIS FEELING IS PROBABLY SHARED AT HIGHER LEVELS. (SECRET) SEOUL 567 (EXDIS), 1/26.) KISSINGER

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